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06/24/2003

Andrew R. Ferlitsch

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MADSON & AUSTIN

15 WEST SOUTH TEMPLE

SUITE 900

SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101

EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/602,485	Applicant(s) FERLITSCH, ANDREW R.	
	Examiner THIERRY L. PHAM	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: amendment filed on 6/26/2008.
- Claims 1-20, and 22-25 are currently pending; claim 21 has been canceled

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20, 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raney (US 20020063880), and in view of Luman (US 20020075508).

Regarding claim 1, Raney discloses Regarding claim 1, Raney discloses a method for monitoring ***(monitoring a print job, par. 25)*** an imaging job in a computer system ***(printing system, fig. 1)***, the method comprising:

- sending ***(sending via network 102, fig. 1)*** an imaging job to an imaging device ***(imaging devices 110, fig. 1)***;
- creating a background process ***(via using device monitoring software 216 or print monitor 318, figs. 2-3)*** on a computer system for monitoring the status ***(monitoring print job status, figs. 4-5, pars. 24-25)*** of the imaging job, wherein the computer system includes a despooling subsystem ***(despooling system 316, fig. 3)***, and wherein the background process is initiated by the despooling subsystem ***(despooling subsystem includes a device monitoring system for monitoring print job status, fig. 1, par. 27-28)***;
- sending a status message ***(sending print job status from printer to host device, par. 25)*** to the computing device; and

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- receiving (***receiving via network as shown in fig. 1***) the status message by the background process (figs. 4-5),
- wherein the status message is sent by the imaging device (***sending print job status from printer to host device, par. 25***) in response to successful completion (*job completion, par. 25*) of the imaging job or an error occurring.

Raney discloses an example of transmitting a status message from an image forming apparatus to the client computer, but does not explicitly teach and/or suggest how a network address of a computing device is obtained and to terminate the background process (print job status monitoring) when the imaging job is completed.

Luman, in the same field of endeavor for monitoring and notifying print job status, teaches a well-known example of how a network address of a computing device is obtained (***network address is embedded with the print request and transmit to the print device, wherein the print device then extracts such address from the print request, fig. 3 and fig. 6, par. 27 and par. 32***) and to terminate the background process (***terminate print job status monitoring when the print job completed, fig. 6, pars. 33-34***) when the imaging job is completed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify print job status monitoring process of Raney to include a method for embedding and extracting network address of computing device and to terminate the background process when the imaging job is completed as taught by Luman because of a following reason: (●) so status message regarding the print job can be sent to either to the computing device or wireless device so that users/operators can react to the print job status and/or error more timely and efficiently (par. 7); (●) monitoring the print job status only when requested (fig. 3 & 6, par. 27 & 32-33) and to terminate such monitoring when the print job is completed (par. 33) to reduce printer resources (e.g. RAM resource require to run such monitoring program).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Raney with Luman to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

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Regarding claim 2, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising delaying return to a print spooler until after the imaging job is completed (par. 25).

Regarding claim 3, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising taking control of descheduling and clearing of the imaging job from a print spooler by a print processor (printer server 108, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 4, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the imaging device is selected from the group consisting of a printer, a scanner, a fax machine, a copier and a document server (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising using a protocol (network protocol, fig. 1) for communications between the computing device and the imaging device

Regarding claim 6, Luman further teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising embedding the network address in the imaging job (fig. 6).

Regarding claim 7, Raney further discloses method of claim 1, further comprising extracting (par. 31) the network address from a connection.

Regarding claim 8, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising sending the network address (network address of sender is included in order to transmit status, par. 31-32) from the computing device to the imaging device.

Regarding claim 9, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the status message includes an identifier that enables the computing device to direct the status message to the processing listening for the message, and wherein the identifier

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is selected from the group consisting of a port, a file, a directory, an FTP address, an SNMP trap and an email address (email, par. 31).

Regarding claim 10, Raney further the method of claim 2, further comprising notifying a print processor of the status message after (par. 32-33) the status message has been received by the background process.

Regarding claim 11, Luman further discloses the method of claim 10, further comprising terminating the background process (par. 33).

Regarding claim 12, Raney further discloses the method of claim 11, further comprising returning control back to the print spooler and indicating success/failure (par. 31-33) of the imaging job to the print spooler.

Regarding claim 13, Raney further discloses the method of claim 12, further comprising performing job recovery (par. 31-34) by the print spooler if the job recovery is necessary.

Regarding claim 14, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising returning control back (fig. 4-5) to the print spooler.

Regarding claim 15, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising descheduling and clearing (par. 23) of the imaging job by the background process.

Regarding claim 16, Raney further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the background process runs asynchronously (fig.4-5). Also see figs. 5-7 of Tanaka for details.

Regarding claim 17, Raney disclose a set of executable instructions on a computer readable medium (memory 210 for storing device monitoring software 216, fig. 2), the instruction executable to:

- send (sending via network 102, fig. 1) an imaging job to an imaging device (imaging devices 110, fig. 1);
- create a background process (via using device monitoring software 216, fig. 2) for monitoring the status of the imaging job (monitoring print job status, figs. 4-5), wherein the background process is initiated by a despoiler system (despooling system 316, fig. 3);
- send a status message (sending print job status from printer to host device, par. 25) to the computing device using the network address; and
- receive the status message (receiving via network as shown in fig. 1) by the background process, wherein the status message is sent (sending print job status from printer to host device, par. 25) by the imaging device in response to successful completion of the imaging job or an error occurring (job completion, par. 25).

Raney discloses an example of transmitting a status message from an image forming apparatus to the client computer, but does not explicitly teach and/or suggest how a network address of a computing device is obtained and to terminate the background process (print job status monitoring) when the imaging job is completed.

Luman, in the same field of endeavor for monitoring and notifying print job status, teaches a well-known example of how a network address of a computing device is obtained (***network address is embedded with the print request and transmit to the print device, wherein the print device then extracts such address from the print request, fig. 3 and fig. 6, par. 27 and par. 32***) and to terminate the background process (***terminate print job status monitoring when the print job completed, fig. 6, par. 33***) when the imaging job is completed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify print job status monitoring process of Raney to include a method for embedding and extracting network address of computing device and to terminate the background process when the imaging job is completed as taught by

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Luman because of a following reason: (●) so status message regarding the print job can be sent to either to the computing device or wireless device so that users/operators can react to the print job status and/or error more timely and efficiently (par. 7); (●) monitoring the print job status only when requested (fig. 3 & 6, par. 27 & 32-33) and to terminate such monitoring when the print job is completed (par. 33) to reduce printer resources (e.g. RAM resource require to run such monitoring program).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Raney with Luman to obtain the invention as specified in claim 17.

Regarding claim 18, Raney further discloses the set of executable instructions of claim 17, wherein the instructions are further executable to delay returning to a print spooler until after the imaging job is completed (par. 25).

Regarding claim 19, Raney further discloses the set of executable instructions of claim 17, wherein the instructions are further executable to take control of descheduling and clearing of the imaging job from a print spooler by a print processor (printer server 108, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 20, Raney further discloses the set of executable instructions of claim 18, wherein the instructions are further executable to notify a print processor of the status message after the status message has been received by the background process (par. 32-33).

Regarding claim 22, Raney discloses a system (printing system, fig. 1) for monitoring an imaging job in a computer system, the system comprising:

- a computing device (ref. 104, fig. 1);

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- an imaging device (ref. 110, fig. 1) in electronic communication with the computing device;
- executable instructions (software in memory 210, fig. 2) executable on the computing device (ref. 104, fig. 2), wherein the executable instructions are configured to implement a method comprising:
 - sending (sending via network 102, fig. 1) an imaging job to an imaging device;
 - creating a background process (via using device monitoring software 216, fig. 2) on a computer system for monitoring the status (monitoring print job status, figs. 4-5) of the imaging job, wherein the computer system includes a despooling subsystem (despooling system 316, fig. 3), and wherein the background process is initiated by the despooling subsystem (despooling subsystem includes a device monitoring system for monitoring print job status, fig. 1, par. 27-28);
 - sending a status message (sending print job status from printer to host device, par. 25) to the computing device using the network address; and
 - receiving (receiving via network as shown in fig. 1) the status message by the background process,
 - wherein the status message is sent by the imaging device (sending print job status from printer to host device, par. 25) in response to successful completion (job completion, par. 25) of the imaging job or an error occurring.

Raney discloses an example of transmitting a status message from an image forming apparatus to the client computer, but does not explicitly teach and/or suggest how a network address of a computing device is obtained and to terminate the background process (print job status monitoring) when the imaging job is completed.

Luman, in the same field of endeavor for monitoring and notifying print job status, teaches a well-known example of how a network address of a computing device is obtained (***network address is embedded with the print request and transmit to the print device, wherein the print device then extracts such address from the print request, fig. 3 and fig. 6, par. 27 and par. 32***) and to terminate the background process (***terminate print job status monitoring when the print job completed, fig. 6, par. 33***) when the imaging job is completed.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify print job status monitoring process of Raney to include a method for embedding and extracting network address of computing device and to terminate the background process when the imaging job is completed as taught by Luman because of a following reason: (●) so status message regarding the print job can be sent to either to the computing device or wireless device so that users/operators can react to the print job status and/or error more timely and efficiently (par. 7); (●) monitoring the print job status only when requested (fig. 3 & 6, par. 27 & 32-33) and to terminate such monitoring when the print job is completed (par. 33) to reduce printer resources (e.g. RAM resource require to run such monitoring program).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Raney with Luman to obtain the invention as specified in claim 22.

Regarding claim 23, Raney further discloses the system of claim 22, further comprising delaying return to a print spooler until after the imaging job is completed (par. 25).

Regarding claim 24, Raney further discloses the system of claim 22, further comprising taking control of descheduling and clearing of the imaging job from a print spooler by a print processor (printer server 108, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 25, Raney further discloses the system of claim 22, further comprising notifying a print processor of the status message after (par. 32-33) the status message has been received by the background process.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/26/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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- Regarding claims 1, 17, and 22, the applicant argued the cited prior arts of record (US 20020063880 to Raney and US 20020075508 to Luman) fail to teach and/or suggest “a background process on a computer system for monitoring the status of the imaging job...wherein the background process is initiated by the despooling system” and terminated “when the imaging job is completed”.

In response, the examiner fully disagrees. Raney clearly teaches a method of creating a background process (**using device monitoring software 216 or print system monitor 318 , figs. 2-3 respectively**) on a computer system (PC 104s, printer server 108, fig. 1) for monitoring the status (**monitoring print job status, figs. 4-5, pars. 27-28**) of the imaging job, wherein the computer system includes a despooling subsystem (**despooling system 316, fig. 3**), and wherein the background process is initiated by the despooling subsystem (**despooling subsystem includes a device monitoring system for monitoring print job status, fig. 1& 4, par. 27-28**).

According to the original filed specification [par 57], the print job is despoiled to the print device before printing. Fig. 3 of Raney shows a detailed configuration of a printer server 108. Printer server 108 further includes memory 310 that stores “despoolers 316” and “print system monitor 318”. Despooler 316 is to despool print job to the selected printer 110 (see pars. 20, 23-24).

Par. 24 of Raney which cites “During this transfer, the despooler 316 monitors the progression of the packets and monitors the time elapsed from the initiation of sending of the packets to the printer. By tracking this time, the despooler 316 can time-out if the transmission is not completed within a predetermined duration”. **Clearly, the monitoring steps (e.g. background processes) are initiated by despooler 316.**

Furthermore, par. 25 cites “Normally, the print job is considered complete upon the transfer of the last packet of print data to the printer. In more sophisticated systems, however, the printer tracks the printing progress and indicates job completion only after the final page of the job has been output. Optionally, a printing complete notice can be conveyed to the sender. Once the print data has been delivered to the printer, the data pertaining to this job is typically deleted from the queue 314 to provide space for new print jobs. **When printing is completed, flow is terminated as indicated in 418**”. In

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other words, Raney teaches a "flow" is terminated when printing is completed rather than monitoring steps (e.g. background process as claimed) are terminated when printing is completed. Therefore, the examiner herein relies upon Luman to show a monitoring process is terminated when the printing is completed, pars. 33-34.

Furthermore, the applicant argued Luman's termination of monitoring process is performed by the printer device and not by the computer system as claimed. In broadest interpretation, the examiner herein interprets "print device" is part of as a computer system. **Notes:** computer system (e.g. including PC, Printer, and Server) is entirely different from a computer device (a single device such as personal computer, Laptop, and etc).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THIERRY L. PHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thierry L Pham/

Art Unit 2625

/Dov Popovici/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625